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HOG SLAUGHTERINGS IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES PRELIMINARY 1950 AND PROSPECTIVE 1951

Commercial or inspected hog slaughter in the principal pork producing countries of the world, for which data are available, is expected to be about 16 percent larger in 1950 than that of a year earlier, according to estimates summarized by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Slaughterings for these countries are expected to be almost 30 percent above prewar.

Prospective slaughter for 1951, provided economic and producing conditions continue favorable, can be expected to be somewhat larger than in 1950, since increases are likely in the majority of the producing countries. The largest gains are expected to occur in North America, particularly the United States and Canada. Increases are also expected in most of the European countries, especially Austria, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Argentine hog slaughter is likely to be relatively larger and small increases may occur in Australia and New Zealand.

The relatively large increase in commercial or inspected hog slaughter in 1950 reflects a favorable feed situation in most of the producing countries, and a strong demand for pork and pork products, which has resulted in a very significant recovery of hog numbers, particularly in Europe. While smaller gains occurred in Canada, the United States and Mexico, the largest increases took place in the European countries. Recovery from wartime losses has been relatively steady and rapid. Minor decreases took place in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Uruguay, while the number slaughtered in the Union of South Africa remained unchanged.

Hog slaughter for calendar year 1950 will be larger than in 1949 in all of North America, except Cuba. Canadian slaughter will be up about 17 percent from a year ago, while slaughter in both the United States and Mexico will be approximately 7 percent above 1949. All 3 countries will be substantially above their prewar levels, Canada 48 percent, the United States 52 percent and Mexico 64 percent.

Commercial hog slaughter in European countries is estimated to be almost two-thirds larger than in the preceding year, reflecting the much improved feed supply situation from domestic production as well as that imported including imports under ECA assistance, and the rapid restoration of hog numbers.

Although slaughter in Portugal is 60 percent above the 1934-38 average, this is the only country to show a decline from 1949. Slaughterings in Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Sweden are above prewar, but other reporting countries are below prewar. Danish hog slaughter in 1950 is expected to rise about 50 percent above the previous year, exceeding prewar by about 1 percent. Hog slaughter in the Netherlands is estimated to be about 60 percent above 1949, an increase of approximately 13 percent above the prewar level.

In the United Kingdom, exclusive of Northern Ireland, commercial hog slaughter increased substantially in 1949 and in 1950 may be more than one-half of the prewar rate. Hog numbers in June 1950 were about 5 percent above June 1949, in contrast to a rise of over 30 percent during 1948-49. This indicates that numbers are leveling off and appear to be in balance with current feed supplies, although pork supplies are still inadequate for domestic needs.

Data on commercial slaughter for the Soviet Union, Eastern and Southern European countries are not available, but some increases can be expected, reflecting Government plans to increase hog numbers and to step-up bacon production for export. It is possible that the drought in some areas may increase the number slaughtered in 1950.

Commercial hog slaughter in South America in 1950 declined slightly from the previous year. Increases in Brazil and Colombia were offset by decreases in Uruguay and Argentina. The severe drought in Argentina in 1949, continuing into 1950, curtailed feed supplies and resulted in heavier marketings of hogs in the latter half of 1949 and a marked reduction in fall farrowings. The current corn-hog ratio does not favor hog production due largely to the failure of the corn crop and reduced feed supplies.

Australia reversed the upward trend in commercial hog slaughter begun in 1946. This year's anticipated decline of about 7 percent puts the present volume of slaughter 20 percent below prewar. Commercial hog slaughter in New Zealand for 1950 is estimated to be slightly below 1949 and over 30 percent below the 1934-38 average. On the other hand, commercial hog slaughter in the Union of South Africa is expected to be maintained at the 1949 level, more than 2 times larger than prewar. Hog slaughter in Japan and the Philippines is increasing, reaching approximately 65 and 94 percent, respectively, of the 1934-38 average.

Slaughter Information on Country Basis

Hog slaughter under inspection in Canada for 1950 is expected to be about 700,000 head above that of 1949, an increase of around 17 percent. According to the June census, hog numbers reversed the downward trend in 1949 and are continuing upward this year. High prices for hogs, together with a favorable hog-barley ratio, have encouraged farmers to expand their hog operations. With the very large grain crop in 1950 and the removal of controls on exports of pork at the end of this year, a further rise in slaughter is likely in 1951.

In the United States, an excellent corn crop in 1949 and a favorable hog-corn ratio encouraged farmers to continue the expansion of hog numbers. The larger fall and spring pig crops are expected to increase the 1950 inspected slaughter by about 7 percent and the total hog slaughter by more than 6 percent from the previous year. With a favorable hog-corn ratio, and relatively large supplies of corn, the number of sows bred this fall for 1951 spring farrowings will, in all probability, be larger than those of the preceding year. Consequently slaughter for 1951 can be expected to be larger than this year.

Hog slaughter in Mexico, according to available information, is expected to be about 7 percent above last year and considerably above prewar. In Cuba, commercial slaughter of hogs for 1950 is expected to drop about 14 percent below 1949, and almost 11 percent below prewar. High prices for hogs on the local market have made it difficult for local processors to compete with imported pork products from the United States. With larger supplies of domestic beef, coupled with some decline in consumer demand for pork, it is anticipated that there will be no appreciable change in hog slaughter for 1951.

In the United Kingdom, exclusive of Northern Ireland, commercial hog slaughter in the first six months of 1950 exceeded comparable 1949 by over 40 percent. Although hog numbers were expanded considerably in 1948-49, the June 1950 census indicated that numbers are leveling off. The feed situation in 1949-50 was about the same as in 1948-49 since the smaller imports of coarse grains and feeds were offset by the larger domestic production.

Imports of pork and pork products into the United Kingdom for January-July 1950 were more than two and one-half times larger than comparable 1949, about 23 percent less than the prewar volume. Imports of bacon almost tripled in this period, especially from Denmark, the Netherlands and Poland, but still remained about 14 percent below the 1938 level. Sow numbers in June 1950 were about 16 percent above those of the preceding year. If economic and feed conditions continue favorable, some increase in hog slaughter can be anticipated in 1951.

Commercial slaughter of hogs in Ireland in 1950 may be around 17 percent larger than that of 1949. Hogs numbers were expanded considerably in 1949 because of an improved feed situation. Bacon exports to the United Kingdom were resumed in October 1949, after a lapse of 7 years. Export controls on live hogs were removed in January 1950, giving further impetus to exports. However, due to the uncertainty of future feed supplies and export outlets, slaughter in 1951 is not expected to be much larger than 1950.

Danish hog slaughter for export in 1950 is expected to be about 50 percent above 1949 and slightly above the prewar level. Hog numbers expanded rapidly in 1949-50 stimulated by an excellent grain crop in 1949; imports of feed and the relatively favorable prices for meat products. Exports of bacon and pork during January-June 1950 were about one and one-half times larger than comparable 1949, although about 8 million pounds below the first six months of 1939. Slaughter in 1951 can be expected to increase further, provided the feed

situation remains favorable. On July 15, 1950, total hog numbers were 19 percent above comparable 1949, while the number of bred sows increased 11 percent, indicating a larger fall pig crop compared with last fall.

Total official hog slaughter in the Netherlands may be around 60 percent larger than that of the previous year, exceeding prewar by about 13 percent. Adequate feed supplies enabled producers to expand hog numbers, which in May 1950 were 43 percent above a year earlier and almost 20 percent above the 1939 level. The hog industry has been encouraged also by the United Kingdom-Netherlands contract which assured a market outlet for Dutch bacon through 1952. An increase in slaughter in 1951 can be anticipated, provided the feed situation continues favorable.

Estimated controlled hog slaughter in Norway in 1950 is expected to be about one and one-half times larger than that of 1949, exceeding the prewar volume by over 50 percent. This reflects the rapid expansion in hog numbers, made possible by a larger quantity of feed and a very favorable price relationship between feeds and pork products. New price classes were established on May 13, 1950, to encourage farmers to shift their production to a leaner bacon type hog, due to the supply of fat pork being larger than the demand, making it difficult to market fat carcasses. Prospective slaughter for 1951, however, is likely to be below this year's level, although still above prewar.

Commercial hog slaughter in Sweden for 1950 may be about 14 percent larger than the previous year, although slaughter weights will be lower. The expansion of the hog industry was encouraged by a relatively favorable feed situation and the government support of prices in the form of a subsidy on pork. The present volume of slaughter is about 25 percent above prewar, and only a minor increase, if any, can be anticipated in 1951.

Although Belgian official hog slaughter is expected to show an increase of about 10 percent above 1949, it will still be around 8 percent below prewar. Hog numbers on January 1, 1950, were almost 50 percent above comparable 1949 and exceeded the prewar level by about 35 percent. However, with the present unfavorable hog-barley and hog-potato ratios, not much increase in slaughter can be expected in 1951.

Commercial hog slaughter in Western Germany in 1950 may be more than two times larger than that of the previous year. Hog numbers increased rapidly in 1949-50, reflecting the greater availability of both domestic and imported feed, the relatively favorable hog-feed prices, and more normal economic conditions. Breeding sow numbers in June 1950 were 3 percent above prewar. If adequate feed supplies continue to be available, hog numbers can be expected to continue the upward trend. A further increase in hog slaughter is likely in 1951.

Total official hog slaughter in Austria in 1950 is expected to show a very substantial increase over the preceding year. Hog numbers have already exceeded the December 1950 goal by 20 percent reflecting the retention by farmers of an

appreciable quantity of home grown grains. If domestic and imported feed supplies are adequate, a further increase in hog slaughter can be anticipated in 1951. In 1950, inspected hog slaughter in Portugal, although about 60 percent above pre-war, is expected to drop below 1949 and continue the downward trend in 1951. Swiss inspected hog slaughter in 1950 is expected to be about 9 percent above the preceding year and to approach the prewar level in 1951.

Commercial slaughter of hogs in the Union of South Africa in 1949 reached a record high, about two times larger than the prewar volume. This level is expected to be maintained in 1950 and 1951. The expansion of the hog industry has been encouraged by the Government's effort to establish an export trade in pork products. This is expected to be accomplished by the establishment of improved grades and the granting of transportation rebates. Domestic demand for pork is increasing, primarily because of the drought which has left the other meats in short supply.

The severe drought in Argentina in 1949-50 has reduced the corn supplies available for feed during 1950. As a result there has been some liquidation of hog numbers and curtailment of fall farrowings. Commercial hog slaughter in 1950 is expected to be about 16 percent below the preceding year and slightly below prewar. Hog prices have risen due to the fewer number available for marketing and the high price of corn. If the next corn crop is adequate and economic conditions warrant, a substantial increase in slaughter can be anticipated in 1951.

Estimates of commercial hog slaughter in Brazil for 1950 indicate an increase of around 3 percent above that of 1949, more than 75 percent larger than the prewar volume. A favorable feed situation, together with fewer outbreaks of hog cholera, has encouraged producers to expand their hog operations. With the large 1950 corn crop, hog slaughter is likely to be higher in 1951.

In Australia, commercial hog slaughter for 1950 may be about 7 percent below 1949 or around 22 percent below the prewar level. The number of hogs, according to the preliminary March 1950 census, continued the downward trend, being 3 percent below the 1939 level. However, hog numbers have probably reached their lowest point in the cycle and may be on the upward trend again. The hog industry, which has been a sideline on dairy and grain farms, has been handicapped by the shortage of skim milk for feed and high production costs, thus making it difficult to compete favorably with other livestock products. However, with the continuance of a favorable feed and price relationship, some increase in hog slaughter can be expected in 1951.

Commercial hog slaughter in New Zealand for 1950 is expected to be slightly below the preceding year, and over 30 percent below the 1934-38 level. Hog numbers have remained relatively constant during the past five years, notwithstanding higher returns from pastoral enterprises, shortage of labor, and to some extent high taxation. Hog slaughter may be somewhat larger in 1951.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service Reports.

HOGS: Slaughter (commercial or inspected) in specified countries,
calendar year, average 1934-38, annual 1948-1951

Continent and country	Average		'Preliminary'			Indicated
	1934-38	1948	1949	1950	1951	
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
Canada 1/.....	3,239	4,488	4,099	4,800	5,300	
Mexico 2/.....	1,280	1,878	1,820	1,950	2,100	
United States - Inspected.....	34,673	47,615	53,032	57,000	60,000	
- Total.....	57,229	71,936	75,293	80,000	84,000	
Cuba 3/.....	270	385	280	240	240	
<u>EUROPE</u>						
Austria 4/.....5/	1,798	885	890	1,600	2,000	
Belgium 4/.....	1,949	993	1,631	1,800	1,850	
Bulgaria 3/.....	134	-	-	-	-	
Czechoslovakia 4/.....5/	3,644	2,145	2,755	-	-	
Denmark 3/.....	4,355	1,604	2,915	4,400	4,600	
Ireland 3/.....6/7/	1,119	384	663	775	800	
Finland 1/.....8/	216	-	-	-	-	
Germany - Western 3/.....6/	7,600	225	1,928	6,200	7,100	
Hungary 3/.....	1,434	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands 4/.....	2,133	1,057	1,500	2,400	2,600	
Norway 1/.....	333	55	203	515	440	
Poland 1/.....5/	6,100	4,177	-	-	-	
Portugal 1/.....	225	339	422	360	325	
Rumania 3/.....5/	777	-	-	-	-	
Spain 9/.....10/	397	250	-	-	-	
Sweden 3/.....	1,396	1,158	1,536	1,750	1,775	
Switzerland 1/.....	793	499	640	700	750	
United Kingdom 3/ 11/.....6/	5,633	1,040	2,177	-	-	
Yugoslavia 3/.....	661	-	-	-	-	
<u>ASIA</u>						
Japan 3/.....	1,150	238	650	750	900	
Philippine Islands 3/.....	794	588	672	750	825	
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>						
Argentina 1/.....	1,240	1,122	1,434	1,200	1,800	
Brazil 3/.....	2,960	5,094	5,100	5,250	5,500	
Colombia 3/.....	594	571	600	625	650	
Uruguay 3/.....	86	157	118	110	105	
<u>AFRICA</u>						
Union of South Africa 3/.....	251	619	800	800	800	
<u>OCEANIA</u>						
Australia 3/.....7/	1,912	1,618	1,611	1,500	1,550	
New Zealand 3/.....12/	968	643	662	655	675	

1/ Inspected slaughter. 2/ Total slaughter. 3/ Commercial slaughter. 4/ Total official slaughter. 5/ Year 1936 only for Czechoslovakia, year 1938 only for Poland, and year 1939 only for Rumania and Austria. 6/ Average for 4 years only. 7/ Year beginning June 1 for Ireland and July 1 for Australia. 8/ Average for 3 years only. 9/ Slaughter in provincial capitals. 10/ Average for years 1931-35. 11/ Great Britain only. 12/ Year ending September 30.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U.S. Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data relate to present boundaries, unless otherwise noted.